

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, September 22, 2008
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A

The following members were present:

Alex Berger	Dick Hyde
Ira Berkowitz	Robert Kerr
Mimi Deem	Omri Praiss
Rosemary Hardy	Eric Schneider
Jessie Hoagland	Mark Winnings

Also present:

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation
Bev Wagner
Audrey and Mel Disney
Michelle Harris

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the August 25, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

Art Piece - Hercules and the Hydra

Ms. Wagner from the Art Commission addressed the Commission about the possibility of moving the art piece - *Hercules and the Hydra* to Shaw Park. She spoke about the history of the piece noting the story of Hercules. The story is primarily about courage and bravery, and such an inspirational story. He was a great hero of Greek Mythology. Ms. Wagner pointed out all of the strong features of the sculpture including the following, it is dynamic and energetic, shows determined muscles and great tension. The sculpture is a strong educational piece and loved by all who currently view it in Forest Park. A colored photo showed additional details not discussed in the presentation.

At the present time the art piece is located at the South Entrance of the St. Louis Art Museum and has been there for about 20 years. She explained that this plan is a great way for the St. Louis Art Museum and the City to work together. The art piece would be placed in Shaw Park on loan to the city for 2 - 3 years. It will be on a pedestal and is approximately 9 feet all. Further, Ms. Wagner noted she is confident enough funds will be raised to cover the cost of transportation and insurance. If the piece is installed it will be lighted at night.

After discussion by the Commission, Mr. Berkowitz made a motion for the Commission to endorse having *Hercules and the Hydra* moved to Shaw Park and to ask the BOA to consider the movement, as well. Mr. Kerr seconded the motion. All Commission members were in favor of the recommendation.

Director's Report

- **Park Signage** - Ms. DeForrest showed the Commission conceptual photographs of the Shaw Park monument signs. The signs were designed based on suggestions the Commission members made at the August meeting. Two different signs were discussed at this meeting. One sign would hold 2, 4x8 banners and would eliminate the sign posts that are currently sitting at the corner of Brentwood and Forsyth. Ms. Deem stated that the banner sign was a nice beginning but the sign definitely needs to be jazzier. It lacks the "wow" factor. Mr. Kerr agreed with her comments. The possibility of having a monument sign at the south end of the park near the Tennis Center was also discussed. The Commission concluded that they think the sign should be kept at its current location.

The idea of having an electronic sign was abandoned primarily because it would be distracting and it could lead to other Clayton businesses wanting to put up flashy signs. The

monument sign would be more cost effective and would create consistency among parks, especially because it would be like the one at Oak Knoll Park.

Ms. DeForrest will compile all comments and suggestions and bring them back to the sign company. New designs will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

- **Upcoming Grants** - Ms. DeForrest lead a discussion about Municipal Park Grants. The grants the Commission discussed were the Park Land Acquisition grant and a grant for an Inclusion Playground in Shaw Park.

Ms. DeForrest told the Commission that the property adjacent to Taylor Park, in the southeast corner is for sale. There is a home on the site and the owner would not mind if the house was torn down and used at park land. In fact, she approached the Parks and Recreation department to see if we were interested in purchasing the property. Ms. DeForrest let the Commission know that the Parks and Recreation department can apply for a Municipal Park Grant but would have to decide at tonight's meeting if they wanted to proceed because the deadline is October 31, 2008. She also noted that in the Master Plan survey citizens were in favor of having more parkland.

After the land acquisition discussion the Commission was in agreement of priority projects. Further, Mr. Carr recommended the Commission move forward with applying for the Municipal Park Grant for the land acquisition grant, and Mr. Berkowitz seconded the motion. All were in favor of the resolution.

Ms. DeForrest then discussed the submittal of a Land and Water Grant for the Inclusion Playground in Shaw Park. The total cost of the project would be approximately \$400,000. The grant would help fund 45% of the project - \$180,000. It is a Land and Water Grant. There is \$15,000 included in the FY09 budgeted for the design. Also included in the discussion were references to other inclusion playgrounds projects that cost a great deal more and are larger. These playgrounds allow everyone to play together and do not have wood chips. Our current playgrounds are ADA compliant but are not inclusive. It was suggested that Commission members check out the playgrounds at Forest Park and the newest one at Tiles Park. St. Louis Children's Hospital donated some money to help fund this playground. Further, the playground project in Lake St. Louis cost \$750,000. It is located on 2 acres and was partially funded by St. Louis Variety Club. Since there are great organizations out there that are willing to fund playground projects such as one like we are proposing. There is a possibility we will receive more funds to defray the cost of building an inclusion playground. Ms. DeForrest concluded the initial discussion by stating our playgrounds are 10 years old and it is definitely time to update them for various reasons.

Mr. Carr recommended that the Commission move forward with applying for the Land and Water Grant that will help fund the Inclusion Playground project. Mr. Berkowitz seconded the motion. All Commission members were in favor of the resolution.

- **Master Plan Update** - Ms. DeForrest showed slides in reference to the Master Plan. (Please see attached copy of the slides)

In reference to the trail project, the Olive Rd to Shaw Park easement has been approved.

There are some water issues at Oak Knoll Park. There will be a newer technique used to drastically improve these problems. There will also be parking lot improvements made at Oak Knoll Park that will help with other water draining issues.

Old Business / New Business

A resolution was passed to change the Commission meeting dates from the 4th Monday of each month to the 1st Monday of each month.

Ms. Hardy stated there is information in the Master Plan that points out Land Acquisition Strategies, and notes it is a high priority. When suitable sites have been analyzed the City should seek a multitude of ways to secure park land including; direct purchase, donation, joint sure and partnerships. As a former Hanley House member, she announced her strong interest in the City of Clayton considering purchasing land at Maryland School for Hanley Park should it become available.

Ms. Hardy wanted to hand out information about the topic but forgot, so asked that Commission members refer to section 5 of the Master Plan and review the Comprehensive Implementation Approach and action items.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Ucinski